

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of August 26, 2005, Figures 1, 2A and 2B are submitted on a Replacement Sheet showing these figures as prior art as requested at paragraph 1 of the Official Action.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection of the pending claims. In addition, claims 5, 7, 9-13, 15, 18, 20-23 and 25 have been amended to delete parenthetical reference numbers.

More specifically, with regard to paragraph 2, claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of US patent 6,430,197, Park, in view of US patent 5,521,918, Kim. The Examiner at paragraph 2 states that Park does not teach releasing transmission of input data from input buffer to the plurality of output buffers when all of the plurality of output buffers are capable of receiving data and cites Kim as teaching transmission of input data from input buffer to a plurality of output buffers when all of the plurality of output buffers are capable of receiving data (citing column 5, lines 7-17 of Kim).

The referenced passage in Kim deals with Figures 4A and 4B of Kim. It is respectfully submitted that these figures and the recited passage in Kim do not in combination with Park disclose or suggest amended claim 1. Step C of amended claim 1 requires determining whether all of the output buffers have signaled their capability of receiving data and new step D requires that step C is repeated until a corresponding indication of capability of receiving data has been received from all output buffers. Support for this amendment is found in the original application as filed, including page 11, lines 1-5 and lines 24-28, and Figures 3 and 4A, and with respect to Figure 4A, checking step S101 where it shows that all FIFOs are checked as being capable of receiving data and wherein this step is repeated until all output buffers 311 through 314 shown in Figure 3 have indicated their capability of receiving data. Step S101 is therefore repeated until

such a state is reached so that the control logic 320 waits until output buffers are capable of receiving data.

The discussion in Kim at column 5, lines 7-17 merely recites that the buffer module controller 30 controls the FIFO-I buffer module 20 and the FIFO-V and the FIFO-A buffer modules 60 and 80 to prevent the occurrence of an overflow in the FIFO-I buffer modules 20 and to prevent the occurrence of an underflow in the FIFO-V and the FIFO-A buffer modules 60 and 80. With regard to the FIFO-V and the FIFO-A buffer modules 60 and 80, the buffer control module provides video and audio bit streams to the buffers of these modules that exhibit the empty states respectively. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of determining whether all of the output buffers have signalized their capability of receiving data and that this step is repeated until a corresponding indication of capability of receiving data has been received from all output buffers before releasing transmission of said input data from said input buffer to said plurality of output buffers when all of the plurality of output buffers have signalized such capability.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is distinguished over Park in view of Kim.

For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Park in view of Kim does not suggest independent claim 8 as amended since claim 8 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1

Since independent claims 1 and 8 are believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 and 16-20, all of which ultimately depend from independent method claim 1, are further distinguished over Park in view of Kim.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-15 and 21-25, all of which ultimately depend from amended claim 8, are also further distinguished over Kim in view of Park.

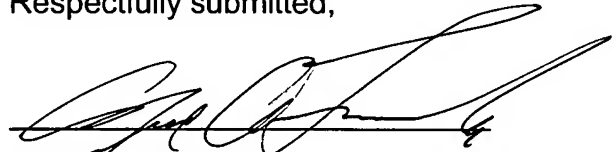
Furthermore, referring to paragraph 3 of the Official Action, the prior art made of record and not relied upon does not, taken alone or in combination with the previously cited art, does not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed herein (the

reference to US patent 6,850,523 at paragraph 3 should be to Karr et al rather than Kaee et al).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Fressola', written over a horizontal line.

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IN THE FIGURES:

Please amend Figures 1, 2A and 2B as per the enclosed Replacement Sheets.